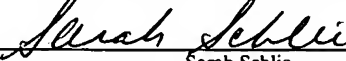


CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

Date of Deposit: March 31, 2004

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.10 that this correspondence and enumerated documents are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to the **MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Sarah Schlie

Docket No.: 57517-54

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Rudolf Neumann et al.

Filed: Herewith Group Art Unit: TBA

Serial No: TBA Examiner: TBA

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FILLING THE BEARING GAP OF
A HYDRODYNAMIC BEARING WITH A LUBRICANT**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop Patent Application
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In order to comply with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's consideration of the cited reference and entry into the record of this application and that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing Form PTO-1449 next to the document. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider a cited document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56 but the citation of such document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited

documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner, in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 and in the course of each search, will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0675, Order No. 057517-0054.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 31, 2004

Anna Vishev
Anna Vishev
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212-756-2000

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| FORM PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary) | Serial No. TBA |
| | Inventors: Rudolf Neumann et al. |
| | Docket No. 57517-54 |

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| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
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| EXAMINER INITIAL | | AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC. |
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| | | Product description "Fluid Dynamic Bearings", Minebea, 11/4/02, 1 pp. |
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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
| EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |

Form PTO-1449 [6-4]